



Applying for the 2024 Mandela Washington Fellowship



MANDELA
WASHINGTON
FELLOWSHIP
FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS





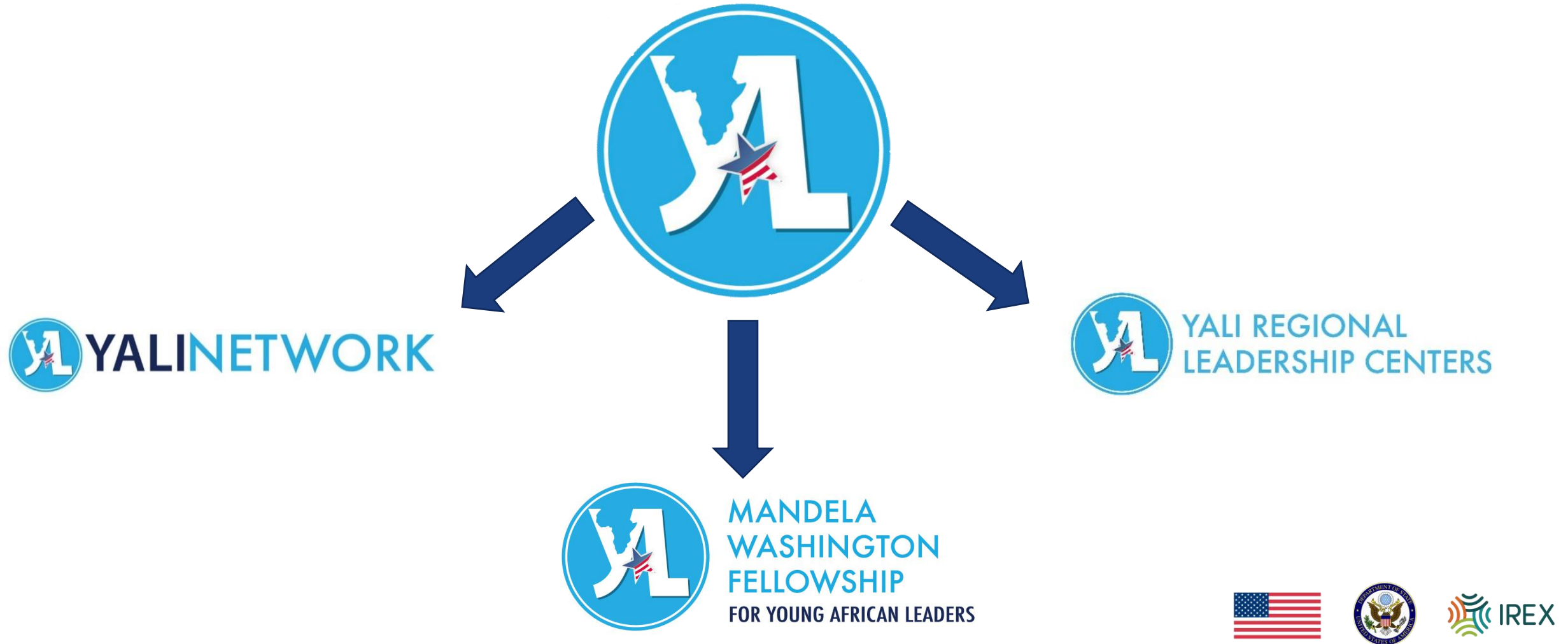
Individuals with disabilities are leaders across the globe.

Including leaders with disabilities is important for the Fellowship.

Agenda

- 1 Program Overview
- 2 Fellowship Provisions
- 3 Eligibility and Selection Criteria
- 4 Application Information

Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Overview



Local U.S. Embassy Point of Contact

U.S. Embassy Maputo

Email: MaputoExchangePrograms@state.gov

Phone: +258 84 095 8000

Mandela Washington Fellowship Introduction

- Started in **2014**
- Empowers young people (**age 25-35**)
- Includes academic coursework, leadership training, and networking
- 2024 application will launch on **August 15**
- Values **diversity** and **inclusion** in every sense
- **Alumni Network** of nearly 6,500 Fellowship Alumni
- **No fee** to apply for or participate



Leadership Institutes

- 700 Fellows selected
- Six-week, intensive program
- Placed at 28 Leadership Institutes across the United States
- Three tracks
 - Business
 - Civic Engagement
 - Public Management



Leadership Institute Tracks Overview

Leadership in Business	Leadership in Civic Engagement	Leadership in Public Management
Subthemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Innovation and technology■ Emerging markets and youth population in Africa■ Business plan development■ Financial management■ Business ethics■ Intersection of business with civil society and government and the role of private/public partnerships	Subthemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Advocacy■ Strategic planning■ Organizational development■ Intersection of civil society with business and government	Subthemes <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Citizen engagement■ Resource management■ Financial management systems■ Intersection of government with business and civil society

Leadership Institutes

Each Institute features several core components:

- Academic Coursework
- Leadership Training
- Ignite Talks
- Site Visits
- Cultural Visits
- Collaborative Relationships
- Community Service
- Unscheduled Networking Time

Each Institute is unique and will feature different topics and activities!



The Summit

- Concluding event
- All 700 Fellows participate
- Networking and panel discussions with U.S. leaders from public, private, and non-profit sectors

Professional Development Experience (PDE)

- Four-week placement at U.S. NGO, business, or government agency
- Submit supplemental application essay to apply
- Gain practical training, learn transferable skills, expand networks, apply concepts
- Up to 100 Fellows selected



Alumni Opportunities & Resources

- **LINC Grants** provide Fellowship Alumni with funding for professional collaboration with others in the Alumni Network.
- The **Reciprocal Exchange** component is a great opportunity to keep in mind while networking in the United States.
- The Fellowship leverages stakeholder expertise to deliver a suite of **Virtual Programming** for Fellowship Alumni and selected candidates.
- The U.S. Department of State's **International Exchange Alumni** community is a valuable grant and networking resource.



Fellowship Provisions

- J-1 visa support;
- Round-trip travel from Fellow's home city to the United States;
- Domestic U.S. travel as required by the program;
- A six-week Leadership Institute;
- A concluding Summit;
- A limited accident and sickness benefit plan (ASPE);
- Housing and meals during the program; and
- An optional four-week Professional Development Experience (for up to 100 Fellows).

The Fellowship **does not** include:

- × Funds to supplement Fellow income;
- × Baggage fees in excess of the standard amount;
- × Medical co-payments and expenses not covered by ASPE; or
- × High-tech devices such as full-feature smartphones, tablets, or laptops.

Visa Regulations

- All participants receive a J-1 visa.
- 30-day grace period for return travel after program ends.
- Program participants must return to their home countries for at least two years upon program completion.
- No paid employment during the program.
- Dependents may not join participants on program.
- No visa transfers or extensions will be given.





Eligibility

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is open to young African leaders who are:

- Between the **ages of 25 and 35**, although exceptional applicants ages 21-24 will be considered
- **Not U.S. citizens** or permanent residents of the United States
- Eligible to receive a United States **J-1 visa**
- **Not employees** or immediate family members of employees of **the U.S. Government**
- Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking **English**
- **Citizens and residents** of an eligible country
- **Not Alumni** of the Mandela Washington Fellowship



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Eligible Countries

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cabo Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Republic of the Congo
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

What Makes an Ideal Mandela Washington Fellow?

- Record **of leadership and accomplishment**
- Demonstrated **commitment to public or community service**
- Ability to **work cooperatively** in diverse groups
- Strong **social and communication skills**;
- Knowledge, interest, and professional experience in the **preferred sector/track**; and
- A **commitment to return to Africa and contribute skills and talents** to build and serve their communities

Fellowship Accommodations

The Mandela Washington Fellowship:

- Is committed to ensuring that Africa's young leaders with disabilities are able to fully participate
- Will provide reasonable accommodations that will allow for a full and engaging experience
- Provides disability support that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

During the Application Process

- You will be asked to self-identify as having a disability.
- Disclosing a disability **does not** negatively affect your chances of being selected for the Fellowship.
- All Fellows who self-identify as having a disability will receive a survey from IREX requesting detailed information about their disability-related health conditions.
- The Fellowship is a **fully inclusive program**. Disclosing your disability will only **improve** our **accommodation of your individual needs**.

Accommodations: Mobility

What Will Be Provided	What Will Not Be Provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Rented wheelchair or scooter✓ ADA-accessible room and transportation✓ Assistance with housework/laundry/cooking (only if necessary)✓ Personal aide (only if necessary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Medical supplies✗ Medications✗ Transportation during free time✗ Permission to bring personal aide from Fellow's home country

Accommodations: Vision

What Will Be Provided	What Will Not Be Provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Orientation and mobility training and campus orientation with a sighted guide during the first few days of the Institute✓ Large print (when possible) or electronic materials✓ A loaner laptop for use during the Institute with screen-reader or magnification software✓ Basic voice recorder✓ Basic smartphone configured for blind users	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Sighted guides for the entire Institute or during free time

Accommodations: Hearing

What Will Be Provided	What Will Not Be Provided
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ ASL Pre-Institute at Gallaudet University✓ ASL interpreter for program activities and a predetermined number of hours outside of scheduled activities✓ Captioning (if needed)✓ Loaner tablet for use during the Institute✓ Basic smartphone with pre-loaded assistive apps✓ Amplification devices (if needed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✗ Interpretation in native sign language✗ Interpretation during free time✗ Hearing aids

Pre-Institute at Gallaudet University

- Coordinated since 2017 in partnership with Gallaudet University
- **Purpose:**
 - Improve American Sign Language (ASL) skills
 - Understand role of ASL interpreters
 - Determine preferred accommodation(s)



Fellowship Accommodations: Pregnancy Support

- Applicants who are pregnant or who may become pregnant are encouraged to apply.
- Pre-natal support is available during Fellowship.
- Fellows who are **less than 20 weeks pregnant** by the start of the Fellowship can expect to be able to fully participate in the program.
- More Info: mwfellows.info/apply

How to Apply

- The application is open from **August 15 – September 12, 2023.**
- The application will request your:
 - Basic information (name, address, phone, email, and countries of citizenship and residence);
 - CV/Résumé information;
 - Personal statements (four short-response and two long-response);
 - Previous U.S. experience; and
 - English language proficiency.

mwfellows.info/apply

Preparing a Strong Application

- **Don't procrastinate!** Applications are due Tuesday, September 12, 2023.
- **Be original!** Write about and focus on what makes you stand out. If you are making an impact on your community – however big or small – be proud to say so.
- **Use real world examples!** Share examples from your work to highlight how you meet the selection criteria.
- **Share your impact and goals!** Show how the Fellowship will help you apply leadership skills and include a clear outline of your goals and plans after returning home from the Fellowship.

mwfellows.info/applytips

Note on Plagiarism

- Plagiarism means **taking someone else's work or ideas** and presenting them as your own. **Plagiarism is strictly forbidden**, and those who plagiarize their application materials **will be disqualified**.
- To avoid disqualification:
 - Use your own words and ideas
 - Avoid cut and paste
 - Do not use wording from other applicants or Alumni
 - Credit your sources

The U.S. Department of State and IREX will be checking all applications for plagiarism. For more information, please visit Plagiarism.org.



Application Timeline

- **August 15:** Application opens
- **September 12:** Application closes
- **November 2023 – January 2024:** Semi-finalists interviewed by local U.S. embassies
- **Late March 2024:** Applicants notified
- **May 2024:** Visa processing and pre-Fellowship orientations for Finalists
- **June 2024:** Fellowship begins

Impact and Alumni Stories



Next Steps

Visit the Fellowship website to learn more: mwfellows.info/apply

Follow the Fellowship on social media:

- *Facebook:* facebook.com/MandelaWashingtonFellowship
- *Twitter:* @WashFellowship / twitter.com/WashFellowship
- *Instagram:* @MandelaWashFellowship / instagram.com/MandelaWashFellowship
- *LinkedIn:* linkedin.com/company/mandela-washington-fellowship/

Mark your calendars with key application dates:

- Application Opens: August 15, 2023
- Application Closes: September 12, 2023

U.S. Embassy Point of Contact:

- MaputoExchangePrograms@state.gov; +258 84 095 8000



Questions?